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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Provisional agenda for the sixty-eighth meeting

to be held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, in Conference Room V, starting at 3 p.m.

Formal segment

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Opening remarks by Acting Executive Secretary.
3. Chairman's conclusions from the last meeting.
4. Meeting with the Chair of the Inland Transport Committee.
5. Decision on matters relating to the Inland Transport Committee: programme of work for 2014–2015 of the Transport subprogramme.
6. Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy:
   (a) Work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015;
   (b) Work plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2014–2015;
   (c) Work plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2015.
7. Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration:
   (a) Establishment of a Public Private Partnership Business Advisory Board;
   (b) Revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies.

Informal segment

8. Discussion on ECE input to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC.
9. ECE Evaluation Policy.

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10. Report from the informal EXCOM Contact Group for the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT).

11. Extrabudgetary project.

12. Response to the EU request for an overview of extrabudgetary projects in the Sustainable Energy subprogramme.

13. Other business.

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Executive Committee

Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Decision on matters relating to the Inland Transport Committee

Draft Decision

Decision approving the programme of work of the Transport subprogramme for 2014–2015

1. At its seventy-sixth session (Geneva, 25–27 February 2014), the Inland Transport Committee (ITC) adopted the programme of work of the Transport subprogramme for 2014–2015 as contained in document ECE/TRANS/2014/23.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the programme of work for 2014–2015 as adopted by the Inland Transport Committee.

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Executive Committee

Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 6 (a) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Draft decision

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015

1. At its ninth session (Geneva, 18 November 2013), the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels (renamed subsequently as the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels) recommended to the Executive Committee to approve its work plan for 2014–2015.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II (item III) of the Executive Committee decision on Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/7) mandates the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels to carry out concrete, result-oriented activities that significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity production from fossil fuels. These activities are to be developed and implemented with the active participation of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) member States, representatives from the energy and financial sectors and civil society, independent experts, and academia. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

2. According to its Terms of Reference, the Group of Experts will concentrate on the following areas of work:

(a) Regulatory and policy dialogue;

(b) Sharing best practices on cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels in the ECE region;

(c) Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), as well as carbon utilization;

(d) Enhanced oil recovery with CO_2;

(e) Advanced fossil fuel technologies for power generation; and

(f) Evaluation of efficiency enhancing measures for coal-fired power plants including steam generators, air and flue gas systems, steam turbines, generators.

3. The Clean Coal Centre (CCC) of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute (GCCSI), and the Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) each conduct a wide range of activities related to CCS, many of which should be of interest to various ECE member States and are closely related to the proposed activities for the Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Fossil Fuels. ECE should engage in close contact with these organizations in order to create synergies and avoid duplications.

II. Concrete activities

4. At its meeting[1] held in November 2013, the Group of Experts agreed to a self-imposed deadline of November 2014, in other words for the first year of its current two-year mandate, to address CCS and to conduct an analysis of other approaches to increasing conversion efficiency through the following four activities (see paragraphs 20, 26 and 27 of the report ECE/ENERGY/GE.5/2013/2):

[1] The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Cleaner Electricity Production from Coal and Other Fossil Fuels, as it was called then, held its ninth session in Geneva on 18 November 2013.

A. Prepare a survey of carbon capture and storage (CCS): landscape, recent developments and stakeholders

Description: At the 18 November 2013 meeting a consensus emerged that during 2014 CCS should be a focus of work in the first year. As a first step, the Group of Experts agreed to prepare a report on CCS covering the landscape, recent developments, and principal actors so that the role for the Group of Experts could be precisely defined and duplication of efforts undertaken elsewhere be avoided.

Work to be undertaken:

- Initial review of existing literature on CCS technology developments and policy frameworks (first bibliography and short report by 1 May 2014):
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts identify and contact principal stakeholders from government and nongovernmental sectors, academia and international organisations;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts map who does what in CCS in an intergovernmental context;
- The Bureau of the Group of Experts and experts identify possible areas where the Group of Experts could provide value added; and
- The secretariat and Bureau draft a report for consideration by the Group of Experts by September 2014.

Deliverables: A draft report/survey of CCS landscape, recent developments and stakeholders

Timeline: September 2014

B. Assist UNFCCC in assessing CCS technologies by preparing a communication to UNFCCC on the use of CCS in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Description: At its 18 November 2013 meeting the Group of Experts offered its assistance to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in assessing CCS technology. To this end, the Group of Experts agreed to prepare recommendations for the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production, as well as CCS for enhanced oil recovery, could be used in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Building on the results of the survey in item (a) of this work plan, the Group of Experts would prepare a report containing recommendations and suggestions from UNECE to be transmitted to UNFCCC, with a request that the report's recommendations and proposals be considered when a post-Kyoto, post-2015 Treaty is discussed and prepared. The Group of Experts would work with a self-imposed deadline of completing this action by November 2014, when this activity would be reviewed by the Group of Experts and a written report finalized and adopted. This work will be closely coordinated with the IEA's Clean Coal Center (CCC).

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts draft a report to UNFCCC with recommendations on the use of CCS and enhanced oil recovery as tools for climate change mitigation by November 2014;
- The secretariat organises a peer review of the recommendations to UNFCCC;
- The Bureau of the Group of Experts drafts a note/letter to UNFCCC outlining the ECE position regarding the use of CCS in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions by April 2015;

- The secretariat organizes meetings between UNFCCC stakeholders and the Group of Experts to discuss and refine the recommendations as needed:
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts submit the recommendations to UNFCCC as a parliamentary document for adoption at the next session of the Group of Experts and endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy in November; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts submit the recommendations and report formally to the UNFCCC.

Deliverables: Recommendations to the UNFCCC on how CCS in cleaner electricity production and through enhanced oil recovery could be used in reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Timeline: November 2014

C. Assess the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants in the ECE region

Description: An analysis serving the basis for developing best practices on the implementation of modernization measures from an economic and environmental perspective is prepared by secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts.

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and a task force of dedicated members of the Group of Experts conduct an initial review of actors and existing information to avoid duplication of efforts;
- The secretariat and the task force identify gaps in information on the efficiency of the existing fleet of conventional power plants;
- The secretariat and the task force prepare a background document for the next session of the Group of Experts on the status of conversion efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region;
- The secretariat and the task force present the findings to the next session of the Group of Experts; and
- The Group of Experts consider possible next steps, including collaboration with qualified partners (international organizations, academia) in assessing and improving the conversion efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region.

Deliverables: A baseline analysis of the efficiency of fossil fuel-fired power plants in the ECE region.

Timeline: Review of actors and developments (May 2014); background document (September 2014), presentation to the Group of Experts (October 2014), possible follow-up work (November 2015).

D. Define other activities through electronic exchanges among members of the Group of Experts

Description: In addition to CCS, the Group of Experts decided to explore other possible activities through an interactive electronic exchange among members of the Group of Experts. The additional activities should be concrete, tangible, and not duplicative with of the work of other bodies and groups are doing and should be in line with the activities mandated by member States. In the past, the Group of Experts had examined ways of

improving the conversion efficiency of coal-fired power plants through, for example, utilization of unconventional fossil fuels, pre-combustion treatment of coal and other fossil fuels, coal and electricity production clustering, and similar clean coal strategies that increase conversion efficiency.

Work to be undertaken:

- Organize teleconferences and electronic exchanges among members of the Group of Experts;
- Explore the possibility for the Bureau to physically meet and discuss and prioritize other activities; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts prepare a draft proposal for the tenth session on the work plan for 2015, including review and comment by and input from member States.

Deliverables: A work plan covering the period November 2014–December 2015 concerning the development of best practices.

Timeline: November 2014

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Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 6(b) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Draft decision

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2014–2015

1. At its eighth session (Geneva, 19–20 November 2013), the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane (subsequently renamed as the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane) recommended to the Executive Committee to approve its work plan for 2014–2015.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2014–2015 as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II (item V) of the Executive Committee decision on the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/7) mandates the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane to carry out concrete result-oriented activities with the objective to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from coal mines by means of activities that may help the recovery and use of methane in order to reduce the risks of explosions in coal mines. The principal area of work of the Group of Experts is best practice guidance for effective drainage, recovery and usage of coal mine methane. The mandate is approved until December 2015, with the possibility of extension.

2. Activities and outputs of the Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane need to be approved by the appropriate United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) body.

II. Concrete activities

3. At its meeting[1] held in November 2013, the Group of Experts agreed to concentrate on the following five activities in 2014–15 (see paragraph 21 of the Meeting Report ECE/ENERGY/GE.4/2013/2):

A. Electronic dissemination of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines

Description: Using the remaining funds from the Cooperative Project on Methane Capture and Use: Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines ECE Trust Fund E141), this activity seeks to electronically disseminate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines to a wide audience of potential beneficiaries:

- Coal mine operators (managers in charge of methane management and coal mine safety);
- Research institutes;
- Coal mine associations;
- Civil society;
- Independent experts; and
- Academia.

[1] The Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal Mine Methane, as it was called then, held its eighth meeting in Geneva, 19–20 November 2013.

The original intention of the project to disseminate best practices to audiences in China, Kazakhstan and Ukraine was achieved in 2011 and 2012. At the meeting held on 19–20 November 2013, the experts noted that it would be beneficial if the publication could be translated into more languages, such as Spanish, Mongolian, Vietnamese, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian so that a wider audience could be reached. The experts also noted the need to update the original English version, which is four years old and could benefit from being brought up to date.

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts identify professional translators to translate the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines into Spanish and Mongolian, as well as Vietnamese, Korean and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (depending on the availability of funds);
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts establish technically qualified national peer review bodies to compare the translations with the English original to verify their technical accuracy and linguistic quality;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts agree the final drafts through an interactive electronic exchange among the Group of Experts; and
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts publish and disseminate translated versions electronically.

Deliverables: Best Practice Guidance on Effective Methane Drainage and Use in Coal Mines in Spanish, Mongolian, Vietnamese, Korean, and Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian.

Timeline:

- Spanish version: first draft June 2014, final draft September 2014, approved version November 2014, electronically published January 2015.
- Mongolian version: first draft September 2014, final draft December 2014, approved version January 2015, electronically published April 2015.
- Vietnamese version: first draft November 2014, final draft February 2015, approved version April 2015, electronically published June 2015.
- Korean version: first draft January 2015, final draft April 2015, approved version June 2015, electronically published September 2015.
- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian version: first draft March 2015, final draft June 2015, approved version September 2015, electronically published November 2015.

B. Update and further development of Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines

Description: The Group of Experts decided to explore how to update and further develop the Best Practice Guidance for Effective Methane Drainage and Recovery in Coal Mines. The Group of Experts recognized that this activity will depend on the availability of resources (experts or funds).

Work to be undertaken:

- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts establish a task force to examine the content and structure of an updated Best Practice Guidance with a view to identifying themes that need to be addressed in a next edition;
- The bureau of the Group of Experts organizes communications among the Task Force to suggest possible changes and additions;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts determine a new structure and content of the Best Practice Guidance to propose to the larger Group of Experts

Deliverables: Presentation to the Group of Experts with recommendations on a new content for the Best Practice Guidance.

Timeline: Establish a Task Force (April 2014), present newly proposed structure and content of the Best Practice Guidance to the Group of Experts (November 2014).

C. Prepare proposals for case studies, where appropriate and financed by extrabudgetary resources, on the application of best practice guidance in specific coal mines in different regions of the world

Description: Case studies are needed to demonstrate both how the principles outlined in the Best Practice Guidance can be implemented at operating coal mines around the world. The original Best Practice Guidance contained seven case studies organized in a common framework (Initial Conditions—Gas Control Problems—Solution) for comparison purposes. Project E187, funded by the Russian Federation, could provide an opportunity to expand the case study database by elaborating concrete, in-depth case studies and analyses that demonstrate the benefits of best practices applied in practice.

Work to be undertaken:

- Demonstrate the application of the best practice guidance by the Group of Experts at an operating coal mine, if accepted, using the funds from Project E187 depending on their availability.
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts review the current framework for cases studies and, if needed, propose a new structure;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts reach out to various coal mining institutions and coal mine operators to encourage them to share relevant case studies on the application of best practices;
- The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts review of the case studies by the Group of Experts though an by electronic exchange electronic platform and discuss them, as applicable, at the annual sessions planned for 2014 and 2015;
- The secretariat publishes case studies on the ECE coal mine methane website after endorsement by the Committee on Sustainable Energy; and
- Depending when the funds are made available, implement applicable deliverables of the project E187.

Deliverables: A number of case studies on the implementation of best practices in methane management; relevant E187 project deliverables accomplished.

Timeline: Review of the framework (by April 2014), communication sent to coal mines (June 2014), review of case studies (November 2014), publishing (as case studies arrive and are reviewed and approved), project E187 implemented according to its project timeline.

D. Facilitate establishment of International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane

Description: The Group of Experts established a Task Force of group members to work towards establishment of International Centre(s) of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (CMM), by one or more United Nations Member States. ECE's International Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Centre of Excellence is an official inter-regional United Nations programme led by ECE on behalf of other four United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, in cooperation with relevant United Nations and other agencies. A specialist Centre of Excellence is an organization or part of an organization that cooperates with the ECE International PPP Centre of Excellence in promoting and disseminating best practices in a specific area, in this case in coal mine methane management. The proposed International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane (ICE-CMM) will be a specialist centre tasked to support capacity-building activities and dissemination of best practices in economically viable methane abatement and utilisation, socially acceptable underground coalmine practices, and environmentally responsible methane management.

Once established, ICE-CMM will be a legal entity operating in the host country within the legal framework of that country. To this end, ECE and the host country will need to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

Work to be undertaken:

- Solicit United Nations Member States to host ICE-CMM;
- Determine which country(ies) are interested:
- Select suitable candidates to host ICE-CMM; and
- Enter into procedure on structuring the Memorandum of Understanding needed to establish ICE-CMM.

Deliverables: Memorandum of Understanding on ICE-CMM.

Timeline: Deciding on the host country (November 2014), Memorandum of Understanding (November 2015).

E. Continue to provide advice to UNFCCC (on the matters related to ACM0008) and to other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms and coal mine methane related standards

Description: The secretariat and the Bureau of the Group of Experts will:

- Invite members of the Group of Experts to correspond with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and determine possible synergies between ISO Technical Committee (TC) 263 Coalbed Methane and the Group of Experts;

- Continue to provide advice to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on the matters related to ACM0008 (Consolidated methodology for coal bed methane, coal mine methane and ventilation air methane capture and use for power (electrical or motive) and heat and/or destruction through flaring or flameless oxidation), in response to UNFCCC's earlier requests;
- Collect data on coal mine methane emissions in the UNECE region; and
- Provide comments on other international, national and regional market-based coal mine methane emission reduction mechanisms, such as the California Air Resources Board Mine Methane Capture Protocol.

Work to be undertaken:

- Continue to liaise with the above-mentioned and similar organizations.
- Explore the opportunity to meet with UNFCCC and ISO.

Deliverables: Report on coal mine methane management, inventories and standards.

Timeline: Through November 2015.

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Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Sustainable Energy

Draft decision

Decision approving the Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2015

1. At its first session (Geneva, 14–15 April 2014), the Group of Experts on Gas recommended to the Executive Committee to approve its work plan for 2014–2015.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the work plan of the Group of Experts on Gas as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Work Plan of the Group of Experts on Gas for 2014–2015

I. Introduction

1. Annex II (item VII) of the Executive Committee's decision on Terms of Reference of the Committee on Sustainable Energy and Mandates and Terms of Reference of its subsidiary bodies (ECE/EX/7) mandates the Group of Experts on Gas to provide a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on ways to promote the sustainable and clean production, distribution, and consumption of gas in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The principal area of work for the Group of Experts is a policy dialogue and exchange of information and experiences among ECE member countries on gas-related issues of regional relevance, including the role of gas in the global energy mix, and the relation between natural gas and the environment. Concrete activities that member States considered for the Group of Experts included studies, delivered in a timely way, on the sustainable and clean production, transport, and use of gas, including on issues that emerge from natural gas market studies carried out in the past; and methods of preventing gas losses and leakages during production and distribution. The mandate is approved until December 2017, with a possibility of extension.

2. In accordance with the agreed mandates and terms of reference, the Bureau of the Group of Experts on Gas recognized the need for concrete, results-oriented activities that meet the needs of member States and that build on issues that have emerged from natural gas market studies carried out in the past. Activities and outputs of the Group of Experts on Gas need to be approved by the appropriate ECE body.

II. Concrete activities

3. At its first session[1] held in April 2014, the Group of Experts agreed to concentrate on the following four activities in 2014–15 (see paragraph 31 of the Meeting Report ECE/ENERGY/GE.8/2014/2):

A. Best Practice Guidance to Reduce Gas Leaks in the Gas Value Chain

Description: In many ECE member States, there is an opportunity to improve efficiency in the gas supply chain from source to use. The differences between the volumes of gas produced at the source and the volumes delivered to end users show significant variances across ECE member States. Reducing the differences by improving the performance among laggards will improve the overall energy efficiency, gas affordability and producers' competitiveness. It will also reduce methane emissions from leaks in the gas value chain. Since methane is a potent greenhouse house gas, reducing emissions will have a significant positive impact on the environment. The proposed activity is therefore to prepare the building blocks for developing Best Practice Guidance on reducing gas leaks in the gas value chain.

[1] The Group of Experts on Gas held its first meeting in Geneva, 14–15 April 2014.

Work to be undertaken:

- Prepare a systematic assessment of gas leakage rates across the full value chain, *i.e.* in gas production, transport, distribution, and use in ECE member States. The assessment will also include a review of approaches to measuring, monitoring, and reporting leakage rates. This work, undertaken in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, including organizations such as the International Gas Union (IGU), the International Energy Agency (IEA), and associations of system operators, will be based both on statistics from the system of national accounts that are reported through national and international organizations (such as IEA or the World Bank) and on collaboration with system operators and regulators, and, if needed, on a questionnaire.
- Review the range of gas technology, pipelines, and infrastructure construction and maintenance techniques deployed across the ECE region, with special focus on the best and worst performers, to explain the differences in leakage rates and to identify opportunities for improvement. The review should provide an overview of the various options and technologies that exist and costs associated with reducing leakages.
- Prepare Best Practice Guidance on Reducing Gas Leakage Rates, taking into account the local conditions for use by industry, regulators, and policy-setters.

Deliverables:

- Performance benchmarking on gas leakage rates across the ECE region.
- Best Practice Guidance on Reducing Gas Leakage Rates.

Work Methods: This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives and is expected to involve all stakeholders.

- A Task Force will be assembled under the direction of either the Chair or one of the Vice Chairs of the Bureau of the Group of Experts. The Task Force will include all stakeholders in the gas value chain, including a range of gas producers and transporters, system operators, distribution companies, regulators, and ministry officials from member States.
- Experts from IGU, IEA, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) bodies, national administrations, and the range of gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force.
- The work to be undertaken, as listed above, will be laid out in a project management plan developed and agreed by the Task Force.
- It is expected that the Task Force will work independently, supported both substantively and logistically by the secretariat, using electronic means of communication and meetings as needed in informal settings.
- The Task Force will provide quarterly updates on progress to the Bureau of the Group of Experts (which the secretariat will post to the website and circulate to the Permanent Missions in Geneva) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Approval of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy: April/May 2014
- Establishment of Task Force: May 2014

- Development of detailed project plan by Task Force: June 2014
- Systematic assessment of gas leakage rates in ECE member States: December 2014
- Review of techniques deployed across the ECE region: June 2015
- Draft Best Practice Guidance on Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: December 2015
- Approve Best Practice Guidance on Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: April 2016
- Publish Best Practice Guidance on Reducing Gas Leakage Rates: October 2016.

B. Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE Region

Description: In order to increase the uptake of renewable energy sources, there is a need to have a reliable source of energy and capacity when the renewable energy sources are not available. There is also a need for rapid-response capacity to maintain balance in power networks in light of oscillations in the output of intermittent energy sources. Gas could be such a source. This activity would be based on a policy dialogue on the role of natural gas in enabling renewable energy policies. That dialogue could lead to development of best policy guidance on practices to enhance the role of natural gas in increasing the uptake of renewable energy in the ECE region and helping achieve the objective of access to energy for all in the ECE region. This work, undertaken from the perspective of the natural gas industry and gas-fired power plant operators, would complement and take into account the work to be undertaken by the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy in developing best policy practices for renewable energy. Relevant lessons could be learned from the development policies carried out by a majority of ECE countries in the past years.

Work to be undertaken:

- One of the activities of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will be to identify those communities in the ECE region that, at present, have no access to energy, and suggest ways to ensure that these communities have access to renewable or alternative sources of energy as soon as possible. Energy companies could be asked to help to achieve that objective as part of that work. The Group of Experts on Gas will assess the role that natural gas could play in providing that access in supporting renewable energy uptake (which in no way means that natural gas could not provide access in its own right).
- Review the range of technology options for improving energy access, including an assessment of commercial feasibility.
- Prepare a systematic assessment of the consequences of renewables uptake in the energy mix for the amount of back-up capacity and energy that is required. The assessment will include an analysis of utilization rates of gas-fired power plants vis-à-vis renewables in ECE member States.
- Conduct an analysis of the economics of gas-fired power in the context of green policies on renewables and gas. The analysis should include an assessment of the impacts of support schemes on the gas sector and on system management.
- Prepare a Best Practice Policy Guidance on the Role of Natural Gas in Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region

- This work will be undertaken in collaboration with the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy and other relevant organizations such as IGU, IEA, national administrations, and associations of system operators.

Deliverables:

- Assessment of the possibility for natural gas to support providing energy access throughout the ECE region.
- Assessment of the systemic consequences of renewable energy uptake.
- Economic analysis of natural gas in a context of green policies.
- Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas in Increasing the Uptake of Renewable Energy in the ECE Region and Helping Achieve the Objective of Access to Energy for All in the ECE region

Work methods: This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- A Task Force will be assembled under the direction of either the chair or one of the vice-chairs of the Bureau of the Group of Experts. Members of the ECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy will be invited to participate. The Task Force will include the range of stakeholders in the gas industry, regulators, and ministry officials from member States.
- Experts from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), IEA, IGU and gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force.
- The work to be undertaken will be laid out in a project management plan developed and agreed by the Task Force.
- It is expected that the Task Force will work independently, supported both substantively and logistically by the secretariat, using electronic means of communication and meetings as needed in informal settings.
- The Task Force will provide quarterly updates on progress to the Bureau of the Group of Experts (the secretariat will post the updates to the ECE website and distribute to the Geneva Permanent Missions) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Approval of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy: April/May 2014
- Establishment of the Task Force: May 2014
- Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: June 2014
- Assessment of the systemic consequences of renewables uptake: April 2015
- Economic analysis of natural gas in a context of green policies: April 2015
- Initial Draft Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas to Support Renewables Uptake: November 2015
- Approve Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas to Support Renewables Uptake: November 2016
- Publish Best Policy Practices on the Role of Natural Gas to Support Renewables Uptake: June 2017.

C. Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

Description: This activity would engage a dialogue on the contribution that natural gas could make to the transition to a sustainable energy future. The dialogue will involve comprehensive analysis of the costs and cost trends through the whole gas and LNG value chains and discussion of possible best practice guidance. The impact of LNG on security and diversification of supply, flexibility, liquidity, prices, and competition and market integration can be significant. There are opportunities for improvement in LNG specifications, liquefaction plants, receiving facilities, local operating procedures, LNG tankers designs, and so forth. Some harmonization of LNG quality specifications is needed to ensure it is acceptable at all LNG terminals and to a majority of end users. Players throughout the LNG chain, including regulators, will be encouraged to standardize and exchange information. Such efforts would improve compatibility and efficiencies and maintain safety levels throughout the industry. Attention should be paid as well to the development of small-scale LNG which is flexible, has lower capital costs, and can service smaller markets.

Work to be undertaken: Building upon the findings and recommendations of the recently published UNECE study on LNG and taking into account recent data and trends, assess the potential for LNG in the ECE region an under optimal policy framework as described above in the description. The work will be undertaken in collaboration with other relevant organizations such as the IGU, the IEA, and associations of system operators. This work will take into account developments of new LNG terminals in ECE member States.

Deliverables:

- Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in Liquefied Natural Gas
- Best Practice Policy Guidance for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

Work methods: This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- A Task Force will be assembled under the direction of either the Chair or one of the Vice Chairs of the Bureau of the Group of Experts. The Task Force will include the range of stakeholders in LNG, as well as regulators and ministry officials from member States.
- Experts from IEA, IGU and gas associations will be invited to join the Task Force.
- The work to be undertaken will be laid out in a project management plan developed and agreed by the Task Force.
- It is expected that the Task Force will work independently, supported both substantively and logistically by the Secretariat, using electronic means of communication and meetings as needed in informal settings.
- The Task Force will provide quarterly updates on progress to the Bureau of the Group of Experts (which the secretariat will post to the ECE website and distribute to the Geneva Permanent Missions) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Approval of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy: April/May 2014
- Establishment of Task Force: May 2014

- Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: June 2014
- Draft Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: April 2015
- Best Practice Policy Guidance for LNG: April 2015
- Approve Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: January 2016
- Approve Best Practice Policy Guidance for LNG: January 2016
- Publish Comprehensive Assessment of Trends in LNG: October 2016
- Approve Best Practice Policy Guidance for LNG: October 2016.

D. Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel

Description: Natural gas and bio-methane represent the easiest, most practical, and most realistic way to reduce pollution coming from road transportation. Methane/hydrogen blends represent a huge potential for the transport sector and offer an ideal bridge to more sustainable mobility using the existing natural gas/bio-methane distribution infrastructure. Natural gas—with its environmental, economic and availability advantages—will remain the only alternative to oil and diesel in the short and medium terms and is the only primary fuel that is fully technically and economically applicable in any mode of transportation: on-road vehicles, scooters, heavy duty vehicles, ships, aircrafts, locomotives, and so forth. Using natural gas as a transportation fuel is a critical area for natural gas demand growth, with specific relevant benefits such as improving environmental impacts (CO_2, SO_2, and NOx). This activity would explore removing barriers to the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel in the ECE region.

Work to be undertaken:

- Analyze the use of natural gas as a transportation fuel from the perspective of energy infrastructure
- In collaboration with NGVA Europe, IGU, and the ECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE), prepare Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

Deliverables: Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel.

Work methods: This work will require the engagement of experts as national and corporate representatives.

- A Task Force will be assembled under the direction of either the chair or one of the vice-chairs of the bureau of the Group of Experts. The Task Force will include the range of relevant stakeholders, regulators, and ministry officials from member States.
- Experts from the ECE Working Party on Pollution and Energy (GRPE) and its Task Force on Liquefied Natural Gas Vehicles (TF-LNG) will be invited to participate.
- Experts from IGU and relevant associations of system operators will be also invited to join the Task Force.
- The work to be undertaken will be laid out in a project management plan developed and agreed by the Task Force.

- It is expected that the Task Force will work independently, supported both substantively and logistically by the secretariat, using electronic means of communication and meetings as needed in informal settings.
- The Task Force will provide quarterly updates on progress to the Bureau of the Group of Experts (which the secretariat will post to the ECE website make available to the Geneva Permanent Missions) and will report to the annual meeting of the Group of Experts.

Timeline:

- Approval of this activity in the work plan by the Group of Experts and the Committee on Sustainable Energy: April/May 2014
- Establishment of Task Force: June 2014
- Development/approval of detailed project description/terms of reference by Task Force: July 2015
- Draft Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: April 2016
- Approve Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: November 2016
- Publish Recommendations on Removing Barriers to the Use of Natural Gas as a Transportation Fuel: April 2017.

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Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 7(a) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Draft Decision

Decision approving the establishment of a Public-Private Partnership Business Advisory Board

1. At its fifth session (Geneva, 5–6 February 2013), the Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnership (TOS PPP) endorsed the recommendation by its Bureau to set up a PPP Business Advisory Board to serve as a key component in the work of the International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE). At its eighth session (Geneva, 12–14 February 2014), the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) recommended the establishment of a PPP Business Advisory Board to assist countries with the implementation of ECE PPP best practices and standards, and the approval of the Executive Committee in this regard.

2. The PPP Business Advisory Board will be supported within the existing resources of the ECE secretariat. Consultative missions in countries by the Board to member countries will be subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.

3. The Executive Committee, at is sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the establishment of the PPP Business Advisory Board, with its mandate and Terms of Reference as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Mandate and Terms of Reference of the PPP Business Advisory Board

I. Background

1. Since the establishment of the UNECE Team of Specialists on Public-Private Partnership (TOS PPP) in 2008, the idea to create a body that brings private sector expertise to the ECE PPP capacity-building programme has been fully supported by ECE member States. With the setting up of the International PPP Centre of Excellence (ICoE) in 2012, the proposal for a private sector advisory body gathered momentum and led to the decision of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), at its eighth session in February 2014, to recommend the establishment of a PPP Business Advisory Board (BAB).

II. Objectives

2. The Business Advisory Board will:

(a) Advise the ICoE on the elaboration of international best practices and standards.

(b) Assist member States with the implementation of international PPP best practices and standards through high-level consultative meetings.

3. The expected duration of the Business Advisory Board is until 31 December 2017, with the possibility of extension.

III. Areas of work

4. The activities of the Business Advisory Board include:

(a) Direct face-to-face consultations with key policy makers in member countries on project delivery, development and implementation;

(b) Peer reviews of selected draft PPP recommendations and standards; and

(c) Assistance to PPP Specialist Centres hosted in countries, and affiliated to the ICoE, to become operational and to identify international PPP best practices in their respective sector.

IV. Membership

5. Participation in the PPP Business Advisory Board will be open to senior representatives from the business sector with a proven track record of international PPP experience.

6. The BAB will consist of between 20 and 30 distinguished high-level business persons who are recognized for their outstanding contributions to the development and use of public-private partnerships either in their respective countries or worldwide.

Members will be selected in such a way as to provide a comprehensive coverage of key issues and sectors.

7. Nominations for the BAB can be made by CECI and TOS PPP delegates and by member States. The nominations will be reviewed by the Governing Body of the ICoE, which will make recommendations to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will appoint the Chairman and the Members of the BAB for a period of two years, with a possible extension of an additional two-year term for a total of two consecutive terms, subject to review by the Governing Body of the ICoE.

8. The Bureau of TOS PPP and representatives from relevant international organizations working in the area of public-private partnership (including the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Investment Bank, and the World Bank) will be invited to participate in BAB meetings and contribute their expertise as observers.

V. Modalities of operation

9. The BAB will report to the TOS PPP. It derives its legitimacy and mandate from this body. It will carry out its work on the basis of an annual work plan.

10. The BAB will meet physically at least once a year, usually in conjunction with the annual session of CECI or TOS PPP. BAB Members will participate in a number of high-level consultation missions in member States. Consultation missions will be based on requests from member States received by the secretariat and will be considered on the basis of available capacity and extrabudgetary resources.

11. The secretariat will:

(a) Provide secretariat support to the BAB;

(b) Organize and participate in its consultation missions and meetings; and

(c) Assist in preparing the BAB's annual work plan

12. As the work of the BAB develops, the secretariat will prepare a code of conduct for BAB members that covers the major elements for protecting the UN interests, such as confidentiality of information, and the protection of use of the UN emblem and name.

13. The BAB Chairman and Members will provide their time and expertise on a pro bono basis without remuneration.

14. The BAB Members participating in consultation missions in member States may have their local expenses and airfare covered through extrabudgetary funding, when such funding is needed and available.

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Draft Decision

Decision approving the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

1. The ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), at its eighth session on 12–14 February 2014, adopted the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies as contained in Annex II of the meeting report ECE/CECI/2014/2, and recommended to the Executive Committee to approve them.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies until 31 December 2016, as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

I. Introduction

1. The Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stipulates the establishment of a Team of Specialists to support the implementation of its work in the area of "Strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation" and taking into account cross-cutting issues related to innovation and competitiveness.

II. Mandate

2. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of CECI. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness in ECE member States, with a specific focus on transition economies. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among ECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers, and the academic and business communities.

III. Areas of work

3. To support CECI in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

(a) Organizing an international policy dialogue on knowledge-based economic development in the ECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars as part of its annual sessions;

(b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the Team's mandate for discussion and endorsement by CECI;

(c) Broadly disseminating the above good practices and policy recommendations;

(d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, carrying out assessments of national innovation systems and policies ("Innovation Performance Reviews") with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance;

(e) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, providing advice on the implementation of policy reforms in areas within the mandate of the TOS-ICP;

(f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with Governments of countries with economies in transition, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. These activities will be organized on a national and a sub-regional basis.

IV. Membership

4. The TOS-ICP comprises government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated by the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS-ICP is also open for other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

V. Modalities of operation

5. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/2013/37 E/ECE/1464, Annex III, Appendix III).

6. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with the possibility of extension if so decided by CECI, and approved by the Executive Committee of the ECE. CECI may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of ECE.

7. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the ECE secretariat.

8. The TOS-ICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation.

9. Expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS-ICP plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders, and are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.